If that Directive Principle was there, then why this new exercise for making education a fundamental right to the children? When this was already there in the Constitution, why did the Government not take some steps to implement the Directive Principle of State Policy in the Constitution? Why does he give all this story of State Education Ministers Conference and the attempts that he is making...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : I completely agree with the hon. Member and our former Prime Minister. In spite of Article 45, it is unfortunate that in this country, still more than 40 per cent of the people are illiterate. In some State, more than 60 per cent of the people are illiterate, particularly women. There are districts in some States where only five per cent of the women are literate. Even the Supreme Court has ruled that it is obligatory on the part of the Government to give compulsory and free primary education. The intention is, if it is amended and made a fundamental right, then it will be justiciable for anybody to go to court and seek justice.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Will an illiterate Advasi be able to go to court? Let us not indulge in these things. These are serious matters...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : I agree with you. We have to amend it. Our intention is, by the end of the century, we want universal education to be brought in the country and we are trying to do it...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ASIM BALA : This question is about free education. Operation Black Board, Mid-day Meal Scheme and other projects are also going on. But I would like to say that even in areas of SCs and STs, there is no improvement in education. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether in the next Five Year Plan, the Government is going to introduce a special programme for areas fo Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : We are contemplating to have more and more residential schools for SCs and STs.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Allahabad University as Central University

*245. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the proposal for making Allahabad University a Central University; and

(b) when the Government of Uttar Pradesh was asked to send its report in the matter and by when the Union Government are likely to take a decision on the take over of the University?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b). The issue of conversion of Allahabad University into a Central University has been under consideration of the Government for some time. In April, 1991,. a view emerged in a meeting, taken by the then Prime Minister, that State Universities which were established more than 100 years ago could be converted into Central Universities if the State Government concerned agree to it and are prepared to meet the assessed Non-Plan expenditure of the institution even after conversion.

In the case of Allahabad University, a Committee was set up consisting of representatives of the UGC and U.P. Government to assess, normatively, the Non-Plan expenditure of the University for the year 1990-91 for this purpose. This Committee assessed this expenditure at Rs. 8.55 Crores. However, the State Government have committed themselves to meet the liability of Rs. 6.46 Crores only being their actual contribution to the University for Non-Plan expenditure during 1990-91. Soon thereafter even Central Universities started facing the financial difficulties as the level of assistance to these universities could not keep pace with their projected requirements due to the need to contain budgetary deficit.

In view of the resource crunch being faced by the existing Central Universities and the inability of the State Government to fully meet the Non-Plan expenditure as assessed at 1990-91 level by the UGC Committee conversion of Allahabad University into a Central University is unlikely to materialise in the near future.

Major Irrigation Projects

*246. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Centre has aided several States for Major Irrigation Projects, give details thereof with funds given State-wise and project-wise during the past five years;

(b) whether 'Muvattupuzha Valley Irrigation Project' in Kerala is given such or other aid (of other agencies); if so, details thereof and details of funds given or earmarked, how have they been utilised, the stage of work of the project;

(c) whether funds allotted for this scheme have been diverted for other works or temporarily withdrawn; if so, details thereof; and

(d) whether funds would be released so that the work is completed in time?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCE (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.